

CA. 1861

There were hundreds of them they were inadequate (5th page)
for they had not got in all the wounded yesterday
morning - Poor fellows they were laid out in the
cold rain (for it rained all day Monday & was very
iced besides I nearly freeze every night) all the
time. Of course our own men are attended to first.

Those who go to the battle ground even as late
as yesterday say that thousands of Northern men
are lying there begging for mercy - by to kill them & put
them out of misery. The day after the battle
some of our negroes went over & they say that
the Northern wounded would raise up & let
them to carry them away out of the rain but
I suppose they were quit begging to be mowed
down & our request to be killed. Johnny went to
the junction Monday & he says they were hun-
dreds of our own wounded lying out in the rain
there being no accommodations for them.

Many of them stripped & the surgeons at work
on them. One poor fellow he says had a
beef hide over him for a shelter, a bucket of
water at his head & a friend attending by to
wait on him. Another was stripped out in

the rain on a plank & a surgeon examining
him. The poor fellow was coughing all the time.
A bullet hole through his side under the arm.
The surgeon was probing the wound to find the
bullet. Some one asked if it didn't hurt &
he (the soldier) replied 'yes like the mischief'. Just
as Johnny got up to him the surgeon exclaimed "Oh
here is where the ball came out in the back, it is
not mortal!" He then went on to probe another
wound in his arm when I left.

G. Hodges Gahson says he heard a Yankee prisoner talking to some of our men. says he "where did you all come from? are you human or not? It does not seem to me that you care whether you die or not. I never dreamed in my life that men would fight as you do?" This serves to show of what material our army is composed & I say let Lincoln conquer it if he can.

Well I was going on to say that we were stopped near the battle field where we rested a short time & it being dark & the firing having ceased we were ordered back to our former posts. We were very much exhausted moving cheerfully marched at quick time some 16 miles in a short time. Besides this our scouting party had gone over I shall not attempt to say how many more miles but a good many. When we returned I think even with my additional labor in the scouting party there were only three or four who seemed less broken down than myself.

It was certainly an eventful day. The roar of artillery & musketry from sunrise till dark showed that a work was going on little in accordance with the original design of the Sabbath day. We could distinctly hear the whistle of the cannon balls. The Rifle cannon shot whirred with almost as much noise as the report itself of the smooth bore cannon. That any of our men once thought of being frightened I think it impossible to believe for they seemed excited to get into it just as some is excited to get in a fox chase. I don't believe they thought of

danger at the time. Of the result of the battle
you have more correct knowledge than I. I suppose
there is no doubt we have taken over fifty pieces
of artillery - Have killed over ten thousand - taken no
one knows how many prisoners & thousands
upon thousands of arms & ammunition.
All along the road they have strewn their
guns knapsacks canteens &c by thousands & thous-
ands. Every log on the road side has behind it
hidden guns & pistols &c. Wagon after
wagon returns loaded with their guns &c.

All our men believe it one of the most complete
victories ever gained.

John is well. Cronshaw I believe has gone
down to Charlottesville sick. There was no
accommodation here & he was not able
to march with the troops we went to
do every day so he went where they are not
so crowded & can get well. Don't be alarmed
about him for I suppose he will be well
shortly and certainly follow. I will however
write to Mrs Halcombe who I know will
go & see him taken care of if he needs any-
thing.

Our tents were this morning returned to us
& I commence writing showing the means of doing
so now. I will send you a list of
some things which I should like to have
if you get a chance to send them.

If I have time I will put in this a sort
of diagram of what I suppose to be the
positions of places in this country but you
must be certain not to make him out

for I knew it is not correct & only put it in to
give you a general idea.
Our arm is now advancing towards Alexan-
dria. Deibels Regiment moves at a moment's warning - we
know not when - it may be in five minutes or in a week.
I forgot to say that when we left Dongouers we had
but a picket of 9 men at Runnel's all of whom
we suppose were killed for they were never appeared.
One of them was ~~capt~~ Davis's brother. Two of the
others were also from my company. It was a
narrow escape that I didn't happen to be on the
same guard for my name was next on the
roll. We were heard that instead of retreating
they all draw up & commenced fighting. Of course
this was wrong for they were only 9 agst. all the
northern army or at least a third of it for I
forgot to say that they came in three great
bodies - one down the road by Dongouers -
the central one came down the R. Road &
the northern one on the road leading to
Stone bridge. I learn they all concentrated
somewhere & afterwards made the attack
on Stone bridge.

Since writing above have just received a
letter from Laura which shall be answered
as early as possible. Tell the children not to think
I forget them if I don't answer each in due season
for it is hard to recollect to whom any letters are due.
If I don't write so soon as they expect they
can write & remind me. My love to
all. I forgot to say I received your letter
~~mentioned~~ sent by Smith Hampton. Good bye
32 affectionately
Bolling Hall

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